

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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CHARLES D. BAKER
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Secretary

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Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities.

The following municipalities are advised that the **CSX Transportation, Inc.** proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way:

Attleboro Foxborough Framingham Lakeville Mansfield Medfield Middleborough Norton Raynham Sherborn
Taunton Walpole

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for **CSX Transportation Inc. Framingham and Middleboro Railroad Branches**, as submitted by: AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc. 2 Robbins Road, Westford, MA 01886

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held at the following location:

Friday, July 17, 2015 at 11:30 AM until 12:30 PM @ Room 103, the Southwest Meeting Room, in the Richard Cronin Building of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, off North Drive, Westborough

Plans Available for Review Prior to Public Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: "At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request." Such request should be made to:

Mr. Stephen Herzog
AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc.
2 Robbins Rd
Westford, MA 01886

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Pesticide Bureau, during regular business hours. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Framingham Public Library, 49 Lexington Street, Framingham, Massachusetts
Middleboro Public Library, 102 North Main St., Middleborough, Massachusetts

Written Comments Requested

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. **The Department will accept written testimony concerning the CSX Transportation, Inc. VMP until the close of business Friday, August 7, 2015.**

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Pesticide Bureau
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151